



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 1, 2011

Contact: Lisa Richardson, 213-361-6980

Email: lrichardson@bos.lacounty.gov

or

Contact: Sharita Moon, 213-974-2222

Email: smoon@bos.lacounty.gov

SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS ANNOUNCES THE RETURN OF THE SPECIAL NEEDS NETWORK'S JOE PATTON ACADEMY CAMP

Camp Joe Patton Academy (Camp JPAC), the only free summer camp in Los Angeles both for children with special needs as well as those with regular abilities, kicked off its second year of camp at the Junior Blind of America facility in Los Angeles today.

Among its many unique attributes, the inclusion camp, which will have two sessions, is open to children of all economic backgrounds and is free to low- and moderate-income families. Families with a combined income of \$50,000 per year, however, are encouraged to make a \$100 donation towards camp operating cost. The camp typically enrolls approximately 60% of children with special needs and 40% of typically-developing children.

The camp will run in two cycles: from August 1st through Aug. 12, and the second cycle from Aug. 15th through the 26th.

Camp JPC, presented by Special Needs Network, is designed to serve as a fun and enriching safe haven for close to 200 camp goers. This summer, campers will be exposed to a host of recreational and educational activities including: dance, music, social skills, arts and crafts, sports, games, theater, science, field trips, math and reading.

Of special note, this year camp JPAC unveils its new Science and Robotics Workshop, in partnership with the University of Southern California for children who are passionate about science, technology, math and engineering.

Founded in 2005, the mission of the Special Needs Network, Inc. (SNN) is to raise public awareness about developmental disabilities and to serve as a link between underserved communities, mainstream developmental disability organizations and government institutions. The organization provides educational forums, advocacy training, intervention programs, resources, learning opportunities for parents and care givers of special needs children.

For more information or to inquire about an application to enroll into Joe Patton Academy Camp, please contact Special Needs Network at: (213) 389-7100 or email: info@specialneedsnetwork.org

####